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IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)

In re: Guy Serre, et al.
 International Appl. No.: PCT/FR97/01541
 International Filing Date: September 1, 1997
 For: ANTIGENS DERIVED FROM
 FILAGGRIN AND THEIR USE
 FOR DIAGNOSING RHEUMATOID
 POLYARTHRITIS

Attn: DO/US
 February 26, 1999

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 07/13/99

Box PCT
 Assistant Commissioner of Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

Please note that the International Preliminary Examination Report indicates that the claims have been amended. It is the understanding of applicant's representative that claims 1-8 on the two numbered pages 22 and 23 labeled as "Amended Sheet" are the English language claims corresponding to the French language claims which were amended during the International Preliminary Examination, and are the claims that are now before the Examiner. It is requested that the Preliminary Amendments set forth below be applied to those claims.

In claim 7, line 5 and 6, delete "or an antigenic composition as claimed in claim 6,".

In claim 7, line 10 delete "by any appropriate means,".

In claim 8, line 4 and 5, delete "or an antigenic composition as claimed in claim 6,"

In claim 8, line 8 and 9, please delete ", and/or means for detecting said antigen/antibody complex".

Please add the following new claims:

9. A method of detecting the autoantibodies specific for rheumatoid arthritis in a biological sample, which method comprises:
- bringing said biological sample into contact with an antigenic composition as claimed in claim 6, under conditions allowing the formation of an antigen/antibody complex with the autoantibodies specific for rheumatoid arthritis which may be present;
 - detecting the antigen/antibody complex which may be formed.

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